



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ranks among the finest in the world; it was here that Father Secchi, S.J., the Italian Jesuit, made his celebrated observations of Mars. The Italians have no rivals in seismology and vulcanism. Italy is first in electric traction. Pacinotti discovered the magnetic ring as applied to the electric dynamo; the first electric turbines used at Niagara Falls were from Italy. Owing to the lack of coal the Italians have been forced to utilize their water-courses for power; so successful have they been in this that they call water white coal. Two of the greatest living experts in telegraphy and telephoning are Bruni and Turchi, professors at the Technical Institute of Ferrara. The Officina Galileo in Florence leads the world in the production of telescopes and military instruments calling for extreme delicacy and precision. The Japanese made use of these instruments in their bombardment of Port Arthur during the Russian Japanese War. The helioscope was invented by the Barnabite, Father Colzi. With the above wholly inadequate summary, given in catalogue fashion of what the Italians have accomplished in scientific inventions alone, can anyone deny that they have laid the world under a great debt of gratitude? Did not a recent writer in the *Contemporary Review* have good grounds for his assertion that the Italians are the most intellectual people in Europe?

If we appreciate more what the Italians, as well as other "foreigners" have done; if we realized that they have their own proper, priceless contributions to make to our civilization and culture, we should not assume so much of the patronizing, better-than-thou attitude towards them; we should realize that only in proportion as we appeal to their sense of national pride can we expect to make of them true Americans.

J. P. CHRISTOPHER, A.M.

The Quit-Rent System in the American Colonies. By Beverley W. Bond, Jr., Associate Professor of History in Purdue University. With an introduction by Chas. M. Andrews. Yale University Press, 1919. 492 pages.

Probably few Americans are aware of the extent to which certain feudal institutions, or remnants of feudalism, existed in the American colonies. Smaller still is the number of those who

realize that these feudalistic remnants were not insignificant among the grievances which led to the American Revolution. In his introduction to Professor Bond's volume, Professor Andrews declares that for more than a century and a half, "lords and gentlemen of rank tried to obtain a footing on American soil and to introduce there the feudal rights and privileges which they exercised upon their own franchises at home". He also reminds us that "throughout the entire colonial period, the government at home enforced in America principles of law and methods of control that were at bottom monarchical, aristocratic, and feudal". Among these methods of control was that involved in the collection of quit-rents.

The quit-rent is a derivation or survival of the personal services and the contributions of food which were in the early Middle Ages universally rendered in Europe by the serf to the lord of the manor. Gradually these services and contributions were commuted into fixed payments of money. Hence the term "quit-rents", to indicate that the holder of land was "quit" of all other feudal charges. These quit-rents were payable both to the colonial proprietors of the land and in many instances to the crown. Hence the system emphasized the feudal dependence of the American colonies.

It was likewise rather important as a source of royal revenue. In the colonial period quit-rents to the crown prevailed rather generally in Pennsylvania and in all the colonies to the South. They existed to only a slight degree in New Jersey and New York, and not at all in New England. The amount collected by the crown in Virginia was quite considerable. The machinery for collecting and turning over the quit-rent to the king was more effective in Maryland than in any of the other colonies. Nowhere was the tribute collected without opposition, and in time the opposition became so general as to constitute a large part of the dissatisfaction and grievances which moved the colonies to throw off the yoke of the mother country.

In his introduction Professor Andrews says that the present volume "gives to the quit-rent for the first time its proper place not only as a feature of colonial land tenure and legislation, but as a contributory cause also to the discontent which brought on the Revolution". The book contains fifteen chapters. In the

first chapter the author traces the origin of quit-rents; in the second he deals with colonies in which there were no quit-rents; in the next five chapters he discusses proprietary quit-rents; and in the last eight he treats of royal quit-rents in the different colonies. It must be observed that the quit-rent system included not only payments to the crown by the companies and proprietors holding charters, but also payments to these companies and proprietors by the individual tenant or land holder. A good illustration of the system in both aspects is found in the grant of land by the Carolina proprietors to Sir Robert Montgomery in 1717. Had Montgomery's intentions been carried out, the settlers would have held their land of Montgomery, he would have held of the Carolina proprietors, and they of the king, thus constituting "three rungs of the feudal ladder"; there would have been paid three different kinds of quit-rents.

For all those to whom history means something more than a record of wars and changes of political administrations, Professor Bond's book will be of great interest; for it presents history in terms of social institutions, and this is one very significant and fruitful method of writing history.

JOHN A. RYAN.

NOTEWORTHY ARTICLES IN CURRENT PERIODICALS

A Century of Education in Missouri. C. A. Phillips (*Missouri Historical Review*, January).

Collegiate Churches. Rev. E. W. Watson (*Church Quarterly Review*, January).

A Consecration at Canton. Rev. J. E. Walsh (*Field Afar*, April).

An Historical Museum. Carl Russell Fish (*Wisconsin Magazine of History*, March).

Asceticism: An Unpopular Apology. John Keating Cartwright, D.D. (*Catholic World*, March).

Benedict XV. H. E. Hope (*Blackfriars*, March).

Blood Prodigies. Herbert Thurston, S.J. (*Studies*, March).

Catholics and the Y.M.C.A. J. Harding Fisher, S.J. (*America*, February 26).

Causes of the Collapse of the Brazilian Empire. Percy Alvin Martin (*Hispanic American Historical Review*, February).